



The Whirlpool

"Dive into the pool of perspectives."

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February 2006

Sisters of The Road

By Minda Jerde and Jacki Ward

"Welcome," says Orion Grey as she led us into a small room off to the side of the café. Orion Grey, the Development Research Associate at Sisters of the Road, is bubbly person with a sweeping laugh. "I just love working here!" she says excitedly, "There are so many people that I admire here! It's such an awesome place to work."

Sisters of the Road, a café and community building organization, was founded in 1976 when two social workers, Sandy Gooch and Genny Nelson, saw the great need for a public place where homeless people felt safe. Gooch and Nelson wanted to provide a place of security for the homeless community that also could offer wholesome and affordable food. Most importantly, it would be given and received with dignity.

To reach this goal, Nelson and Gooch conducted hundreds of interviews asking the homeless community what they needed, and with that information founded Sisters of the Road Café. Their goals, which have not changed since, are:

- 1) The creation of a safe and welcoming environment to neighborhood residents, especially women and children, where
- 2) Nourishing meals would be served at little cost or in exchange for work and
- 3) Job training and employment experience would be available.

What these goals leave out is the gentle and accepting environment that Sisters has set up. Grey says, "What

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A publication of the • Mayor's Youth Advisory Board • City of Beaverton

Editorials

Are you going Bananas?

Where do you see yourself in ten years? Do you see yourself munching on a nice melt in your mouth banana, or using your sharp knife to cut up that nice banana over your daily bowl of cereal? Maybe in ten years you will even be thinking to yourself as you eat this banana, "boy, am I lucky. I can sit here and eat this nice fresh banana because it's not like it's going to go extinct or something." Right? WRONG!!! One day they just might be extinct. Bananas may not be here in ten years, possibly maybe even five.

Take a look at 46 year old Juan Fernando Aguilar, who has a banana plantation in Central America. It is here that he grows about 300 types of bananas although many banana plantations only handle one. Yes, the one you see yourself cutting up over a bowl of cereal, they have a name you know, their called Cavendish. Bananas have very different variations; some are thick and over a foot long. While some can be slender or even pinky size. Some bananas you can eat raw, then there are some that are meant for boiling and etc... Although Mr. Aguilar grows many types of bananas the Cavendish is one of the few he does not.

Bananas can be considered the perfect fruit. They are nutritious, cheap, constantly available, and not mention they taste good. This explains why Americans eat more bananas then any other kind of fruit. I'm even eating a banana as I write this. Genetically, each Cavendish is a duplicate of each other. Identical to the first Cavendish found in South East Asia.

The banana, however, might just be too perfect. For about 15,000 years humans have been cultivating bananas and now they lack the genetic diversity that is essential to a species survival. In other words a disease that at first only infects one plantation can easily spread around the world and destroy plantations.

Recently (you may or may not consider 1992 recently) a new strain of Panama disease was discovered; only this time it can effect the Cavendish. It was first discovered in Asia. "Since then, Panama disease Race 4 has wiped out plantations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and Taiwan, and is now spreading through much of Southeast Asia. It has yet to hit Africa or Latin America, but most experts agree that it is coming" says to Dan Koeppel author of "Can This Fruit Be saved" paper.

Now there is a global race to save this fruit. There are people like Mr. Angular who believe that bananas can be saved the more traditional ways. This is to raise experimental breeds of bananas in fields and try to find a suitable replacement for the Cavendish. Then there are bioengineers that have decoded the banana genome and are manipulating the plants chromosomes. For example Rony Swennen who sometimes crosses the DNA from one species to another is trying to invent a tougher Cavendish. That will be immunized against not only Panama disease but other ailments as well.

The "Goldfinger" banana A.K.A FHIA-01 was bred with samples of more then 350-banana types. The Goldfinger has an apple like flavor to it, and can be eaten raw or cooked. The Goldfinger (as we'll stick to calling it instead of FHIA-01) was created by Philip Rowe who after his death has been replaced by Mr. Angular. They both agree that bananas that are not genetically bioengineered are the best way to go. He cares very deeply for bananas. "The bananas" he claims "are his children".

The chance of a seed yielding from a highbred banana is about 1 in 10,000. Mr. Angular's workers travel through the bananas transferring the pollen from the males to the females keeping close records.

After the plant bears fruit it is harvested and brought to a processing shed for seed extraction. About 1 in every 300 bananas have a seed. These seeds are brought to what Mr. Angular calls the "embryo rescue unit. (Yes you read that right). Eventually the few that germinate will find themselves going through a series of greenhouses, until they finally reach back to the banana fields.

Meanwhile, in Belgium Rony Swenne, the director of Tropical Crop Improvement at the Catholic University of Leuven, has to oversee the largest collection of bananas. It is here in fact that more then 1,200 banana varieties and plantains, kept in row upon row of test tubes. Each one is a potential donor of its genetic materiel to be used in engineering new banana varieties. That will hopefully be resistant to things like Panama disease and such.

You might be reading this and thinking to yourself "ok, why is this author telling me that bananas are so easily affected by diseases for? Why won't I be able to eat my banana

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Soliciting letters to the editor:

Get your voice heard! Send your comments, questions, and concerns to jacki_whirlpool@yahoo.com and have them published in *The Whirlpool* for the whole world to see. This publication is all about you (yeah, you!) so send your rantings and ravings, your thoughts and concerns, even your questions and desires to us, we'd be glad to throw them out there for everyone to read.

Perspectives

Censorship: a Social and Cultural Block to Society

Saumya Kini

The first amendment of the United States Bill of Rights promises freedom of speech and expression; therefore, they are basic and undeniable rights for all citizens. Censorship is a major inhibition to these rights. It denies individuals the choices given them by the Bill of Rights and restricts the public's exposure to anything even slightly controversial. When we permit censorship, we inflict damage upon our rights as citizens, and we prevent our society from becoming fully aware socially and culturally.

Often, material in a simple art form such as drama is censored because themes or images are considered "shocking," "abnormal," or "socially offensive." However, in censoring such material, one only deprives society of truths about important issues. If the community doesn't understand what happens behind the scenes in their world, they can never come to terms with it. In this way, not only does censorship limit the knowledge available to the people, it also creates more controversy than it aims to prevent because of the resulting confusion.

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Bananas (Continued from page 2)

that in about ten years I was planning on eating?" Let me explain why bananas so easily contract disease. It has to do with bananas origins. Human production as I mentioned earlier came from Southeast Asia about 15,000 years ago. Out of the hundreds of banana varieties that we found only about 10 to 15 were according to Swennen brought to Africa. It is from those bananas that more than 200 varieties have emerged. These varieties however remain very similar in genetics, so if one type gets an infection, then it can easily spread from one to the other. In Latin America it is even worse because even fewer variations were brought there.

There are all different kinds of bananas being invented in labs. Bananas with radish mix, even bananas with a high amount of beta-carotene. Some people like Swennen believe that biotech bananas are the only way to save bananas. Cavendish is 100% seedless by the way so it's pretty hard to use traditional methods.

Hopefully you will be able to accomplish your life long dream of eating the banana you planning on eating in ten years. In places like England people have refused to eat genetically engineered bananas. Engineered bananas, however might be the only way. I say we band together and eat the bananas of the future.

Koeppel, Dan. Can This Fruit Be Saved?. June 2005 <<http://www.popsci.com/popsci/science/5a4d4c3ee4d05010vgnvcm1000004eecbccdrd.html>>

Even if material is considered socially offensive, there is always a way to please the majority without altogether striking down an idea through censorship. For example, if a production is to be staged with offensive material, those who do not like it can choose not to see it; the Bill of Rights gives the freedom of expression to the producers and others cannot take that away. As Mark Twain once said, "censorship is telling a man he can't have steak just because a baby can't chew it." It is obvious that censorship does not make sense for all the people all the time.

In terms of culture, people need exposure to what exists in the world in order to develop as tolerant and stable members of society. Censoring cultural ideas such as the reality of minorities and their equal rights as humans will only cause more hate, misunderstanding, and divisions among people.

Ray Bradbury, in his book Fahrenheit 451, describes a society in which books are burned and nearly all information is censored in order to keep the people blissfully ignorant. Instead, they become empty and thoughtless. "If you don't want a man unhappy politically, don't give him two sides to a question to worry him; give him one. Better yet, give him none," the book says; and yet the story's society is completely dysfunctional. Perhaps this is a stretch on today's issues of censorship, but the central truth remains: censorship is nothing but an obstruction to our communities' growth, and should not be tolerated.

Pros For Censorship

Censorship was put in place to keep them public away from harmful ideas, lyrics, or images. The "people" they were trying to protect were children. Children meaning anyone under the age of 18. Doesn't the public deserve to have a system to keep harmful press away from children! Would you want your 10 year old child to be strolling around the library and be able to pick up a book with pornography? I wouldn't. Not only has censorship spread to the press and music, it has spread to the media. Now most TV's that were made fairly recently (around anything after 1998) are programmed with what is called a V-chip. The V-chip lets the parents program the TV with a password so if the child watching the TV wants to watch something with a rating higher than what the parents set they have to put in a password. This keeps children safe from finding channels with images or ideas that could possibly be disturbing to them. Censorship has helped make strong morals in the children of America and will continue doing so for long after my time.

Sisters of the Road (continued from page 1)

we wanted to do was create a safe place for people to get off the streets and come and eat a good meal. Basically, we want to show them a little respect and acknowledge that they exist. Sisters is here to build relationships.” People on the streets live “in incredible isolation,” she continues, “they may go for days without talking to anyone, days without touching anyone.” They café tries specifically to break through that isolation, and they succeed greatly. Every worker, even a one-time volunteer, is trained in nonviolent communication and ‘gentle personalism,’ a phrase which essentially means seeing every individual as a human being, and treating them as a deserving one. Grey uses the example that a volunteer may go up to a table to fill the salt shaker and “start a conversation about God or pre-marital sex” with the customer seated there.

Sisters of the Road adheres to the community organizing model, which means that they listen to their customers and their customers are involved in the solution. As Grey says, “top-down power means practically nothing.” The ideas for all their programs come from the patrons and community. If their customers express a need, Sisters will do their best to provide them.

One of the many notable programs at Sisters is the Barter Program. Even though a meal and drink cost only \$1.50 (a price that has not changed since 1979), that small amount is difficult for some people. To respond to this need in the community, the café now lets customers trade work for a hot meal. If one doesn’t have the money, one can wash a few dishes or stir the soup for a bit to pay for it. Also, by working, one can build up credit at the store. Many customers will save up barter hours to treat a whole group of friends to lunch. This is a wonderful way for very low-income people to get a meal while still retaining, and simultaneously strengthening, their personal dignity.

Sisters is no longer just a café. They have recently finished a research project which incorporates over 600 one-on-one interviews. The goal of the project was to “gather and summarize information on the root causes and solutions of homelessness by asking the experts, people with experience in homelessness.” They also created Crossroads, the community organizing branch of Sisters, created and sustained by people who have experienced homelessness firsthand.

When we asked what she has learned here, Grey answered, “These people are amazing gleaners!” A ‘gleaner’ in agriculture is someone who stands behind the machines when they are harvesting crops and take all the useable food for free. They can find a messed-up blanket and use it for a bed or use a whole bunch of tin cans and scrap metal to build shelter. They can see value in anything they find.” Another thing Grey mentioned was that “all the classes deal with the same problems. You may not think so,” she says, “but everybody,

even homeless people, feel insecure sometimes and need to be loved.”

Sisters of the Road, along with the rest of their noble pursuits, works hard to address classism and judgment and get rid of it. The first step, however, is to acknowledge that it exists. “Sometimes I see people without teeth in the café and automatically think that they must be stupid,” Grey uses a personal example to explain it to us. “But once I get over that first reaction I see how irrational that was. Think about it! I don’t remember my mom sitting me down and saying, ‘Now Orion, people with missing teeth are stupid.’ You just don’t get that from anywhere!”

Another common misconception is that even though these people live on the streets, not all of them have lived their whole life begging for food. “People get on the streets for a mixture of reasons,” Grey says. “Usually it is a mixture of bad choices and bad luck in an already bad situation. Poverty is the main thing. A poor person who makes a bad choice will much more likely end up on the street than a rich person who makes a bad choice.”

Sisters of the Road acknowledges the necessity for healthy food and job opportunities. However, Sisters accomplishes much more than that. They address the physical needs with hot meals, but they never neglect the spiritual and emotional needs of community, connection and dignity.

The mission statement of Sisters of the Road says, “Sisters of the Road exists to build authentic relationships and alleviate the hunger of isolation in an atmosphere of nonviolence and gentle personalism that nurtures the whole individual toward changes that will reach the root of his or her homelessness and poverty and end it forever.

A sign over the door reaffirms that, saying, “in here there are no strangers, just friends we have never met.”

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Homelessness in Portland:

(based on information from US Conference of Mayors-Sodexho USA)

Top 3 Reasons Why People Are Homeless:

Lack of affordable housing, low paying jobs, and substance abuse.

Demographics of Portland’s Homeless Population:

- 39% Families, 38% Men, 21% Women, 2% Youth
- 19% African American, 62% White, 14% Hispanic, 2% Asian, 3% Native American
- 65% Single Parent Families
- 63% Family Members who are children
- 18% Mentally Ill
- 30% Substance Abusers
- 12% Employed
- 8% Veterans

Feature

The Young Artist Concert: Stimulating Our Musical Community

Saumya Kini • saumya_whirlpool@yahoo.com

On April 7th, 2006, Metro Arts Inc. will hold the eleventh annual Young Artists Concerto Concert at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. This performance is the most competitive and intense of its kind in Oregon and is held to honor the best young classical musicians in the state. The competition is open to classical instrumentalists eighteen years and under, and vocalists of twenty-one years and under. Every year, before November 21st, these young and motivated musicians send in applications and audition tapes, each hoping to be chosen to play at the Schnitzer with other talented, serious artists of their age. Not only will they experience performing in front of about 3,000 people, but Neil DePonte, music director of the prestigious Oregon Ballet Theatre, will conduct them alongside the full, professional orchestra that backs the soloists. It's no surprise that the youth musical community is so enthusiastic, since many young artists dream of such an incredible opportunity and a moment of fame. But who are these inspired students who have such a passion for music?

One of last year's successful concert's participants, the superb violinist Su Min Lim, is currently seventeen and a senior at Valley Catholic High School. Su Min grew up in Seoul, Korea, and began learning violin at the young age of three. She said that "unlike ordinary Korean middle school students who attend general academic middle schools, I went to Ye-Won School, the most prestigious arts middle school in Korea. I had to audition to get in." She came to Oregon two years ago, and began learning from Carol Sindell, a professor at Portland State University, who later encouraged her to apply for the Young Artists Concert. The contest's reputation for unrivaled competitiveness attracted her the most.

Su Min was accepted, and gave a brilliant performance of the last movement of the Tchaikovsky violin concerto. The experience, she said, was amazing. "How would I have ever

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Sisters of the Road (continued from page 4)

If you would like to volunteer at The Sisters of the Road Café you can help serve food, help in the office, assist at special events, or serve on the leadership, finance, and Budget or Event Committees. More information is available at their Web site: www.sistersoftheroadcafe.org

For volunteer information:

Volunteers are always needed at Sisters of the Road. All necessary training is provided and all ages and levels of experience are welcomed. Sisters accept monetary and food donations, as well as hygienic supplies that they distribute to their customers. Call (503) 222-5694 for volunteer information.

dreamed of sharing my music with about three thousand people? Sharing my talents with other people, being acquainted with other talented Young Artists, playing with the grand orchestra, and earning the strong passion and confidence of violin from the conductor, Niel DePonte, was the best experience I have ever had." When asked if she had any words of advice for young musicians who aspire to play in the Young Artists Concert, she explained, "Walt Disney once said, 'It is kind of fun to do the impossible. If you can dream it, you can do it.' Without hope and dreams, I could not have achieved what I have already. Without challenges, I would not be able to appreciate accomplishment. Whenever you falter, think of this quote, that 'it is kind of fun to do the impossible,' that you can do what you dream by endurance, dedication, and strong passion."

Excerpt from

Criminal Reality

by Jack Tafari

Call me criminal
Me seh call me criminal

Call me criminal beca' me live inna de street
haffi scuffle ev'ry day fe get someting fe eat
Doan come a hypocrite
like no Sunday ginnal
Iman live inna de street
Gwan, call me criminal

Wage dem a low, price a rent fly so high
people barely see de shadow flyin' by
When yuh cyaan afford de int'rest
never mind de principal
go live inna de street
dem a go call yuh criminal

Dem would a call yuh criminal
a nex' dutty criminal

Gwan, call me criminal ca' me live inna de street
haffi scuffle ev'ry day fe get somet'ing fe eat
fe put food inna mi belly
an' shoes pon mi feet
Me seh call me criminal
ca me live inna de street

Feature

iPODS

Abishekkha Sundaram

Now featuring video with music, iPods are the fresh and the up-to-minute craze from kids to adults. Selling at a price up to \$399, the ipod is capable of holding up to 15,000 songs, 25,000 photos, and 150 hours of music. One who has never seen an ipod might imagine this device to be enormously huge and uncomfortable to transport. But the iPod comes as small as 1.5 ounces, and in dimensions as tiny as 1.6 x 3.5 x 0.27 inches. Think the iPod is easily displaceable and effortless to lose? For no fee, an ipod buyer is able to get a personalized laser engraving of their choice. The ease and simplicity of the ipod is a factor that adds to the hot craze going on for them!

Apple's CEO Steve Jobs took the Apple Company up in 1976 with Steve Wozniak. At the time, Jobs was a college dropout and assembled computers with Steve in his garage. He also cofounded the Pixar Company in 1986. Steve Jobs took up his present position at Apple in 1997.

Apple has had three major innovations in the past thirty years: the Apple II, the Macintosh and now the iPod. An inspirational fact about Jobs is that he doesn't have an M.B.A. or even a college degree. He dropped out of Reed College after one semester, yet the Apple Company is rapidly growing by the minute even, as you are reading this article. Just in the past six weeks, Apple has once again released three new and "hot on the market" products. One is the Ipod Nano, which sells at a price of \$249. The Nano is the smallest ipod yet, and it holds 1,000 songs. Second is the iPod video. This iPod comes with up to twenty hours of battery, and has the capability to hold audio books, where you can read your favorite book. Also, this iPod features the ability to transfer photos from your digital camera. Their last, but definitely impressible innovation, is the Front Row. This is a feature, which allows you to run your computer from across the room with a remote control.



Now, you might be wondering, "What is the Secret behind Apple Companies success?" It is said that one of the reasons is that, the Apple Company makes its own hardware, unlike many of its competitors. This is because when Apple creates

a piece of software, they do not want it running on hardware built by as Steve Job would like to say, a "bunch of dudes" they can't fire and don't know. Also, Apple encourages and believes in teamwork. They are a company big on, as Apple states it "deep collaboration" or "cross-pollination" or "concurrent engineering." Different departments work on different projects (such as department, hardware, and software) at the same time. Another aspect of Apple Company which some might like,

is that Steve Job's mind is not always focused on winning. In fact, it is even said, that he does not mind losing. His main goal and aim for the company is just to not be "lame"

What would an ipod be without the famous and well-known iTunes music store? With over two million songs, possible to download, who wouldn't be lured into buying the ipod? The latest craze is watching selected TV shows on a video-playing ipod or watching the two- thousand music videos offered online. Once on to your

ipod, iTunes will allow you to arrange it any way you want to. The iPod even offers an educational way to use your ipod. Going on vacation and don't have room for your favorite book? Well, Ipod is now presenting the option of downloading audio book series. For all of you Harry Potter fans, all six volumes of the Harry Potter series are downloadable. And for all who are big on customer service, online, there is an online "Just for you" section where customers reviews, are

welcome, and where personalized recommendations are present. So the next time you see an iPod, you will know a little bit more information, behind the creation of that addictive and amazing little device!



Sunset students Aly Rey, Amie Williams, and Justin Long jam to music on their iPods

Interested in learning more about M.Y.A.B?
Visit www.beavertonoregon.gov

Entertainment

Movie Review: *Schlark Attack!*

by Austin Gross

It's wild! It's uproarious! It's the family comedy of the year!

Prepare for the wildest romp of the season! When mild-mannered

Herbert Schlark agrees to host this year's Thanksgiving Dinner, he gets more than he bargained for! Much more! Much, much more! Hold on tight, because the wild ride of your life is about to begin!

Things start calmly when Herbert's demonic but senile mother-in-law, Belinda Maud, accidentally shatters the front window in an admirable yet misguided attempt to defend Pearl Harbor from a local Rabbi, who'd found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time as he methodically sabotaged the red lights from the Schlark household's red-white-and-blue themed Christmas lights, which Mrs. Schlark hung one day early to compete with her showy, passive-aggressive neighbor, a gay man named Carl, who secretly urged the Rabbi to sabotage the Schlark Christmas lights. Soon,

though, things get hectic, and guests keep pouring in-sibling rivalries are revived between Cindy and Sue, who have married and bred furiously since their mysterious estrangement twelve years earlier, and now each have 12 zany, wild, wild, children. Candice, Schlark's estranged liberal daughter, returns home with a new Puerto Rican beau, and demands they eat tofu turkey! But to make matters worse, Herbert Schlark has no arms!

Indeed, this is one holiday bash you won't want to miss!

What the critics think: "A hoot and a holler!" "Never a dull moment!" "Thumbs up!"

Favorite moment: the climactic turkey-stuffing scene, when the Rabbi, conspiring with Sue's youngest daughter and her crush, Cindy's son Mike, releases a truckload of dreidels into the kitchen-look out, Mr. Schlark!

Score: A-

Rating: PG

Release: Nov. 20 - just in time for the family feast!

Freaky Green Eyes Book Review

By: Minda Jerde

Rating: B+

There are some books that induce you into a coma like sleep, and there are books that make you stay up until three in the morning to finish. There are books that are so girly that you want to go buy a thousand lip glosses, and there are books that are so interesting you need to take time to ponder it. Freaky Green Eyes, by Joyce Carol Gates, is right in the middle of those. It's girly enough but yet so compelling you can't seem to put it down. Freaky Green Eyes is about a girl named Franky Pierson and her family. Her father, a handsome and charming sportscaster, is constantly on the move, especially when it comes to his wife, a talented artist. Subtly the so called "happy couple" is spending a peculiar amount of time away from each other. Soon Franky and her younger sister are thrust into a world of chaos when their mother goes missing from her beach home.

All of this happens when they find out certain things about their father that they never knew. Hmm.. Though the beginning is slow to dive into the action, the suspenseful plot will keep you reading to the end! The rising and falling action are superbly written with wonderful description mixed with complex ideas and complications. The resolution makes you want to jump into the story and hug Franky while making you think about how well thought out that story was.

Joyce Carol Bates is a familiar author. Her other works

include the extremely popular Big Mouth & Ugly Girl, and Small Avalanches. Her novel Blonde was on the New York Times best seller list. So when you have some time, sit down in your comfiest pair of slippers with a big mug of Hot Cocoa and enjoy!

Fashion

Abishekkha Sundaram

Wondering what the latest fashion craze is? Lately, the whole vintage scene has been making a fast and rapid comeback. The stunning and dazzling Vintage jewelry and clothing, from the 1940's are creating the hottest and newest craze. Been seeing a lot of eye-catching, and attention grabbing chandelier earrings recently? Amy Tara Koch notes that, "the 'trick' to wearing them successfully is to pair them with your more contemporary clothing and accessories." Another huge fashion statement this season are the sparkly and noticeable broaches and pearls. The bulky and long strands of pearls, against a normal pair of blue jeans, can make a huge statement, these days. And the shiny, and glittery brooches can be put to use, when attaching them to any shirt, or even your favorite fall hat. So, the next time you're going out; don't be scared to show your flair, by taking it back to the 40's!

How To...

101 Things to Do Review:

It's Time...to be a Kid Again.

By: Halah Ilias

Yes, we are busy. We have school, clubs, sports, homework, family obligations, work, and a few hours of sleep. Where did the fun go?

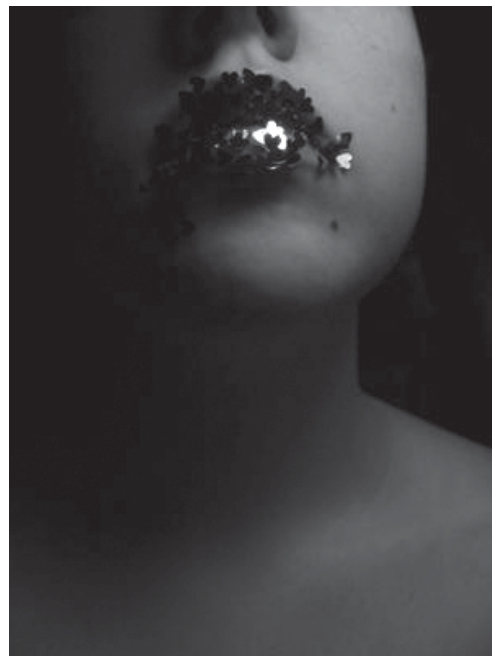
Now that school has started, it has become much harder to actually have some fun. When we have the occasional three hours of free time, we may call one of our friends, chat on instant messenger, play on myspace.com, or watch some television. The fun times have dissipated and now it's much more difficult to remember what being a kid is like. That's why for just one of your free days, Chuck-E-Cheese's should cross your mind. Call up a few friends and get ready to have pure, whimsical fun. After you finish smashing some alligator heads and play in the arcade, mingle while you taste some of Chuck-E-Cheese's famous pizza.

Chuck-E-Cheese's - "Where a kid can be a kid!" Don't forget!

Chuck-E-Cheese's
4445 SW 110th Ave.
Beaverton, OR
(503) 643-2002
Bus # 54

From the MYAB Coordinator:

As the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board Coordinator, I get the opportunity to work with youth leaders from the Beaverton area high schools who serve on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Board and with the Mayor of Beaverton, Rob Drake. From the first meeting I have been impressed with the work the Board does and I came to a conclusion immediately that youth do great things all the time. There is a notion in many minds that youth are lazy, selfish, and materialistic. I have been working with youth of all ages for over 5 years and I have seen youth be amazing and creative. I think the good stuff gets overlooked because the bad stuff is presented so often. Youth are involved and are doing community service and volunteer work, active at church, involved in sports and are employed at your favorite stores and restaurants. So my message is basic: youth can be a lot of things but I hope that most will see youth as our upcoming leaders and providers. Youth contribute to our community everyday and that is the stuff we should be talking about.



*Self-Portraits by Chelsea Xavier,
 senior at Sunset High School*

